

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241647

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SAN FRANCISCO STAFFING LEVEL

REF: A) MOSCOW 13676, B) LENINGRAD 1477

1. UPON CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS AND DATA SUBMITTED
REFTELS, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY RESPOND TO KORNIYENKO
DEMARCHES ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO STAFFING LIMIT ALONG FOLLOW-
ING LINES:

A. BECAUSE OF MODEST GRADUAL INCREASE IN US STAFFING AT
LENINGRAD PROJECTED THROUGH COMING YEAR, DEPT IS PREPARED
TO AUTHORIZE VISAS FOR UP TO 40 PERMANENTLY-ASSIGNED SOVIET
EMPLOYEES, NOT COUNTING WORKING WIVES. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT,
HOWEVER, ANTICIPATE CHANGING 1 TO 1.5 TARGET RATIO.

B. BEFORE AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR UP TO 40 PER-
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MANENT POSITIONS, DEPT WISHES TO CLARIFY MFA'S INTENTIONS

WITH REGARD TO TDY TRAVEL TO LENINGRAD. SOVIETS RECENTLY
WITHHELD VISA FOR TDY OFFICER (AYER), APPARENTLY LINKING
HIS CASE TO SF STAFFING LEVEL QUESTION. SOVIETS DELAYED
ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO SOME OTHER TDYS FOR THREE WEEKS, AND
WHILE SUCH DELAY WAS NOT IN VIOLATION OF ANY VISA AGREEMENT

OR UNDERTAKING, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT IN CATEGORY OF
HARASSMENT. WITHOUT FIRM COMMITMENT FROM MFA THAT VISAS
FOR TDYS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT DELAY IN FUTURE, DEPT WILL
NOT ISSUE VISAS FOR PERMANENT SAN FRANCISCO STAFF AT THIS
TIME BEYOND EXACT 1-1.5 TARGET RATIO LEVEL OF 36, BASED
ON PRESENT ON-BOARD LENINGRAD STAFF LEVEL AND STRICTEST
APPLICATION OF TARGET RATIO.

2. FYI: ON-BOARD SF STAFF IS 35, AND WE COUNT FOUR
PENDING VISA APPLICATIONS.

3. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS MFA INDICATES ACCEPTANCE OF PRIN-
CIPLE OF TARGET RATIO WE SEE NO REASON TO NEGOTIATE OR
EXPLAIN MECHANICS OF HOW WE ARRIVED AT LIMIT OF 40.
DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING BACKGROUND WORKING PAPER WITH
TABULATIONS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION.

4. DEPARTMENT PREFERS NOT TO LINK ISSUE OF TDY
"SPECIALISTS" FOR NEW YORK CONGEN WITH TDY FOR LENINGRAD
BECAUSE WE DO NOT EXPECT TO PERMIT RECONFIGURATION WORK
ON NEW YORK BUILDING AT THIS TIME BEYOND INSTALLATION OF
EXTERIOR SECURITY DEVICES. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT HAS NO
OBJECTION TO EMBASSY RAISING REQUEST FOR TDYS TO NEW YORK
IN CONTEXT OF OUR NEED FOR SPECIALISTS TO COMPLETE CON-
STRUCTION OF LENINGRAD OFFICE BUILDING. END FYI. KISSINGER

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